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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 SS-20

NSC-07 INR-11 CIAE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /066 W
---------- 081513
O 222150Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9529

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4663

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJ: SITUATION REPORT: FRANCO'S HEALTH

REF: MADRID 4617

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS AND EMBASSY SOURCES, FRANCO'S CONDITION REMAINS FAIRLY STABLE AS OF AFTERNOON OF JULY 22. MEDICAL BULLETIN RELEASED EARLY AFTERNOON JULY 22 STATES THAT "FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CLINICAL TREATMENT OF FRANCO CONTINUES IN ALL WAYS. ORAL FEEDING HAS BECOME NORMAL AND FUNCTIONAL RECOVERY HAS INTENSIFIED."

2. SOURCE WITHIN HOSPITAL STATES THAT FRANCO CONTINUES TO DO SOME WALKING, WHICH ESSENTIAL PART OF TREATMENT, AND THAT ADMINISTRATION OF ANTICOAGULANT DRUG HAS BEEN DROPPED OR, ACCORDING TO OTHER SOURCES, SHARPLY REDUCED. FRANCO'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY AND TOP GOVT OFFICIALS HAVE DISPLAYED GREATER SERENITY AND OPTIMISM TODAY IN CONTRAST WITH DEEP CONCERN DEMONSTRATED PREVIOUS NIGHT (REFTEL).

3. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES, PREVIOUS EVENING'S MEDICAL CRISES CAUSED SPREAD OF RUMOR THAT FRANCO HAD DIED. PRESS REPORTS TODAY STATE SURGERY IN FACT SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED YESTERDAY BUT DISCARDED AS OPTION AT LAST MINUTE. SEVERAL SOURCES STATE FRANCO'S SON-IN-LAW, DR. CRISTOBAL MARTINEZ BORDIEU, HAS OBJECTED TO TREATMENT BEING GIVEN FRANCO AND HAD INSISTED ON CONSULTATIONS
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YESTERDAY WITH FIVE ADDITIONAL SPANISH SPECIALISTS.

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4. SOURCES IN SPANISH NEWS AGENCY AND ON EDITORIAL
STAFF OF MAJOR MADRID DAILY STATE GOVT, HAS
INFORMED PRESS UNDER STRICT EMBARGO THAT FRANCO'S DEMISE,
IF IT OCCURS, WOULD BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY AFTERWARD IN NATION-
WIDE RADIO-TV STATEMENT BY ALEJANDRO RODRIGUEZ DE VALCARCEL
IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF REGENCY COUNCIL.
RIVERO

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